SCONUL recruiting new Deputy Director

SCONUL's Deputy Director, Lisa McLaren, will be leaving the organisation to take on the post of Head of Library and Archive Services at the University of Westminster from early July. SCONUL is recruiting a new Deputy Director to work with the Board and Executive Director across all areas of our work. This is an exciting role that will allow the successful candidate to help shape the future of academic and research libraries in the UK and Ireland, operating on the national stage to advocate for the value and needs of member libraries, and working closely with our members at a senior level. Responsibilities include running two national services and the role provides scope to use your creativity and entrepreneurial skills. Full details are available here: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/media/uhpjvf5t/deputy_director_post_april_2025.pdf and deadline for applications is 6 May. For a confidential discussion, please contact Ann Rossiter at ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk or Libby Homer, SCONUL Co-chair, at libby.homer@aru.ac.uk.

Professor Sue Hartley OBE to deliver keynote at SCONUL members meeting, 14 July

SCONUL is pleased to announce that Professor Sue Hartley OBE, Vice-President for Research & Innovation at The University of Sheffield, will deliver a keynote presentation at the SCONUL AGM and Members meeting (11am–1pm, via Zoom) on Monday 14 July 2025. Professor Hartley will speak about the intersection between libraries and academics on the conversation about open research. The AGM will include formal business including Executive Board elections and an opportunity for members to review SCONUL's work from 2024-2025 and engage with plans for next year. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Town Hall meeting on "Big Five" negotiations

SCONUL held a town hall meeting on the "big 5 negotiations" on 1 May, chaired by Chris Banks and attended by more than 370 representatives from across the SCONUL membership. Anna Vernon, Head of portfolio, content licensing at Jisc, gave an update on progress in the negotiations that Jisc is leading on behalf of the sector. She highlighted the next generation open access approach being taken which aims to deliver in-year reductions, financially sustainable agreements and more inclusive participation in open research. SCONUL members can access a summary and recording of the event by logging into the SCONUL website here.

SCONUL Autumn conference, 19 November

SCONUL is pleased to announce that it is bringing members together in Birmingham on Wednesday 19 November for a one-day face-to-face conference. The theme of the conference is *Library Transformation: people and place* and will include the announcement of the results of the SCONUL Library Design Awards. The event will be held at EcoSmart accredited venue The Studio, 7 Cannon Street, Birmingham, B2 5EP on 19 November. For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

AI coffee morning, Friday 30 May

SCONUL's regular AI coffee morning brings together those with an interest in AI developments within libraries on the last Friday of every month from 10am to 11.30am. For our next meeting on Friday 30 May we will hear from Lisa Bird, Copyright and Licensing Advisor, and James Barnett, Research Skills Advisor, at University of Birmingham on frameworks for the evaluation of AI tools. At these meetings library colleagues come together, share experiences and ask questions as a community. These are not expert forums but are for sharing information and experiences as practitioners and they are open to all, whatever your role or level of expertise. Please bring your own coffee and biscuits! For registration details, please email sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Directors and Deputies group for neurodivergent library leaders

Across the SCONUL community a number of those leading libraries are neurodivergent and SCONUL is setting up a directors' group and deputies' group for those in this group who would find it helpful to come together to share experiences and approaches. This will operate in the same way as other SCONUL directors' and deputies' groups which provide a source of informal support and advice virtually and through face-to-face meetings. The directors group is aimed at those who are responsible for those leading their library service (irrespective of job title) and the deputies group is aimed at those in senior leadership teams in libraries. Theses group supplements the excellent work being carried out by the Neurodivergent Library and Information Staff Network. If you are interested in joining a group or would like to find out more, please email Ann Rossiter ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk. Conversations will be assumed to be confidential unless otherwise agreed.

Support for those managing change

SCONUL has set up a new group as part of its set of directors' groups on managing change named after Italian cities and the new Turin group is open for heads of service who want to network and share information informally and confidentially. The groups provide an opportunity for those leading libraries which are undertaking significant challenges in response to current financial challenges to share intelligence, experiences, and strategic responses to those challenges including advocacy. They operate along the lines of existing SCONUL new directors and deputy directors groups which are confidential and self-organising. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Ann Rossiter at ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk.

April AI coffee morning; recording and resources

SCONUL's April AI coffee morning looked at a comparison of different AI tools and what it means for information and AI literacy. Professor Gobinda Chowdhury, from University of Strathclyde, spoke about his recent experimentation with AI tools for an article published in the Journal of Information Literacy. He described the summarisation technique of GenAI as a paradigm shift for students and researchers but cautions that they are not a replacement for traditional scholarly tools, citing the changing nature of results at different times of day. The session also had a number of provocations, and the audience took up the mantle, debating concerns over paid-for tools and the growing inequity in the sector, the differing nature of AI policies and the dichotomy of employers looking for AI skills in recent graduates and students' concerns that they haven't mastered these required skills. SCONUL members can access the recording and other useful resources here.

Call for Systems Librarianship case studies

SCONUL's Future of the Systems Librarian Community of Interest Group is seeking expressions of interest from members willing to contribute to a case study. The areas of interest are: knowledge sharing; network building and stakeholder management; building resilience; different models of library systems, succession planning & recruitment. For further information or to express your interest, please email Jenny McNally mcnallyj1@cardiff.ac.uk by 16 May. If are also aware of any interesting or valuable practice happening in your network, please do share details of this and we may be able to follow it up.

Report: An overview of UK libraries metadata supply

A report on how SCONUL libraries source metadata records for their library collections for the Library Hub Community Advisory Board (LHCAB) has been published. SCONUL members can find the report here: *SCONUL libraries metadata source overview – 2024 report*, along with the underlying data: *LHCAB Metadata Source UK overview 2024*. Colleagues are invited to use the data to consider opportunities to inform local metadata supply on an ongoing basis. The LHCAB will also continue to review the data to inform ongoing sector discussions relating to national metadata use and requirements. If you have any questions or comments please contact Hannah Mateer, Associate Director Collections Services, University of Edinburgh and Chair, LHCAB, Hannah.Mateer@ed.ac.uk or Jennie-Claire Crate, Product Manager Library Hub, Jisc, jennie-claire.crate@jisc.ac.uk.

Join Jisc open policy finder advisory board

Jisc *open policy finder* (formerly Sherpa), is seeking expressions of interest for their new Advisory Board. As a member of the Advisory Board, your insights will play a key role in guiding *open policy finder's* strategic goals of reaching financial sustainability, increasing coverage and ensuring that its roadmap reflects the views and needs of the community. The deadline for expressions of interest is 22 May. Read more

Draft UKRI Research Data Policy published

UKRI has published a new draft research data policy. The policy will update and streamline UKRI's expectations for sharing and managing research data and other digital objects, such as software and code, arising from UKRI-funded research. It aims to support good research practice and to maximise the value of publicly funded research data for research, innovation, and society. A UKRI research data policy information webinar about the aims and development of the policy will be held on 7 May, 10:30am - 12:00pm. Read more

OASPA's 'Next 50%' project: a different conversation about the open access transition

OASPA is launching a major new project for 2025, bringing together publishing organisations with those who pay for, fund and invest in scholarly communications. They are partnering with Research Consulting to deliver this work. This project will build on OASPA's research and outputs of the past few years, most notably following over 3,000 downloads of OASPA's recommendations on financial and workflow barriers. Expressions of interest in participating in the project through a survey and/or online workshop are being collected via an online form. Read more

ARLIS UK & Ireland Conference 2025 Bursaries & Student Awards

ARLIS UK & Ireland are offering a set of bursaries and student awards to support attendance at their conference. The support includes a free ticket to the conference plus expenses for travel and

accommodation. These are aimed at individuals in both Ireland and the UK. Further details, including the eligibility criteria and the application form can be found on the website here: https://arlis.net/careers/awards/. Deadline for applications for bursaries and student awards is 6 May.

Behind the scenes at SCONUL

We are putting the final touches on our CPD phase one report, written by Jo Walley, which explores a myriad of issues, including what's working well, future skills needed and barriers to training. We hope this report, due in the next few weeks, will spark a sector wide conversation about where to put our collective energies and we are really looking forward to having you all read and comment.

We've also been holding our six-monthly meetings with our regional and national consortia, including ALN, CONUL, SCURL and M25. It's great to get together on a regular basis and discuss our priorities, workstreams and areas where we can work more closely. We've been following these up with an annual symposium, so we can discuss in more detail in person and this meeting is so valuable for all of us.

> ## Making the most of your SCONUL membership
>
> - **Sign up to lis-sconul** to participate in discussions with your peers as well as hear about news and events.
> - **Join** the SCONUL community on **LinkedIn**.
> - **Register** to access all the resources on the SCONUL website.
> - **SCONUL mentoring scheme** supporting emerging and newly appointed leaders.

Updates from our peer organisations:

1. Academic Libraries North https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/
2. Cilip https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/IP_news
3. CONUL https://conul.ie/news/
4. LIBER https://libereurope.eu/news/
5. M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries https://www.m25lib.org.uk/about-the-consortium/newsletter-archive/
6. Mercian Collaboration https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/news
7. RLUK https://www.rluk.ac.uk/rluk-bulletin/
8. SCURL https://www.scurl.ac.uk/news
9. ucisa https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/News-and-Views
10. WHELF https://whelf.ac.uk/

Appointments and job opportunities

If you have moved to a new role or institution or have any senior job opportunities that you would like us to include, please e-mail SitMui.Ng@sconul.ac.uk.   These vacancies can also be found on our website at: https://www.sconul.ac.uk/jobs-bank/current-roles/

Appointment: University Librarian, University College Cork

University College Cork (UCC) has announced that it has appointed Liz Jolly as its University Librarian. Since 2018, Liz has served as the Chief Librarian of the British Library, where she oversees core activities such as collection management, research services, digital scholarship, and national library partnerships. Read more

Vacancy: Deputy Director, SCONUL

SCONUL is inviting applications for the post of Deputy Director. The Deputy Director works closely with the Executive Director and the Board on all aspects of SCONUL's work, helping to deliver the SCONUL strategy and liaising closely with our members to ensure that all we do is informed by their needs and aspirations. The role would provide the successful candidate with a fantastic opportunity to help shape the future of academic and research libraries, operating on the national stage to advocate for the values and needs of member libraries and working closely with our member at a senior level. For a confidential discussion, please contact Ann Rossiter at ann.rossiter@sconul.ac.uk or Libby Homer, SCONUL Co-chair, at libby.homer@aru.ac.uk. **Closing date 6 May** Read more

Vacancy: Research Data Management Co-ordinator, City St George's University of London

City St George's University of London is recruiting for a Research Data Management Co-ordinator. The post-holder will work closely with other Library teams, maintain St George's Figshare data repository and other research data management systems, and will work in partnership with the institution's stakeholders, including the Joint Research & Enterprise Service and Information Governance staff to ensure a cohesive and researcher-centric service is provided. **Closing date 7 May** Read more

Vacancy: Information Librarian (Academic Services), University of Bath Library

The University of Bath is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill this part-time vacancy within the Academic Services section of the University of Bath Library. Although supporting all areas of Academic Services work, this position is currently based primarily within the Library's Science Subject Team. The Science team comprises one Faculty Librarian, two Subject Librarians, one part-time Information Librarian plus this position. **Closing date 12 May** Read more

Vacancy: Senior Library Assistant (Subscriptions & Access), King's College London

The role is based in the Open Research team, which is an innovative and growing area of service provision. Senior Library Assistants within the Subscriptions & Access wing of the team support users with access to a wide range of print and electronic Library resources for their education, teaching, and research needs. **Closing date 14 May** Read more

Vacancy: Information Assistant, Edinburgh Napier University

Edinburgh Napier University are looking for an Information Assistant to join their Information & Operations team. Information Assistants provide an efficient first line of Library and IT support, assisting users with library enquiries, access to library and IT resources, and offering introductions to online resources and stock collections. They work closely with colleagues across the wider Library Services team. The post holder will be part of an agile and flexible customer-focused team, that provides an efficient first line Library and IT service to support users with Library enquires, use of Library and IT resources and supporting access to electronic resources and stock collections. **Closing date 21 May** Read more

Events

If you would like SCONUL to include any events that may be of interest to directors, please e-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Midlands Innovation Open Research Week, 6-9 May

UKSG Open Educational Resources online seminar 2025, 7 May

CENL Books and Audiences Network Group (BANG!) conference 'New Directions in Library Exhibitions', Riga, 8-9 May

UKSG webinar: OA Book Usage Data Trust: An International Data Space for Usage Data and Beyond, 13 May

Meet the 2025 CILIP President, Sue Lacey Bryant, 13 May

CILIP Academic and Research Libraries Group AGM, 14 May

NAG 15th Collection Development Seminar and Public Library Forum, Leeds, 15 May

Beyond the Horizon 2025 CILIP North East Conference, 19 May

DARTS9 'Opening Doors: Empowering Librarians to conduct and support research', Swindon, 21-22 May

University Science and Technology Librarians' Group (USTLG, 22 May

LibrarIN's International Conference on Libraries and Social Innovation and Co-creation, Madrid, 22-23 May

CONUL Conference 2025, Tullamore, 28-29 May

International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) annual conference, Leeds, 2-5 June

16th International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries, Liverpool, 3-4 June

50th Annual Conference of IASSIST, Bristol, 3-6 June

Edinburgh Open Research Conference 2025, Edinburgh and online, 4 June

User Experience in Libraries 9: 'Trust the Process', Liverpool, 10-12 June

Annual Conference of the Cathedrals Archives, Libraries and Collections Association (CALCA), 17–19 June

M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries Annual Conference, London, 24 June

Academic Libraries North Conference 2025 Sustainable innovation: moving forward in challenging times, 18 June online and, Manchester, 11 July

SCURL Annual Conference, Aberdeen, 19 June

ARLIS UK & Ireland annual conference 2025, Limerick, 1–3 July

CILIP Annual Conference, Birmingham, 2–3 July

SCONUL AGM and members meeting, 14 July

CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group (RBSCG) Conference 2025, 3–5 September

Fedora Camp, Vienna, 10–12 September

OASPA Conference on Open Access Scholarly Publishing 2025, Leuven, 22–24 September

Call for contributions: Open Science Conference 2025, Hamburg, 8–9 October

Call for papers: CILIP Metadata & Discovery Group Conference 2026, Bristol, 11–13 March 2026